


# CHESAPEAKE BAY

## B-WET BAY WATERSHED EDUCATION & TRAINING PROGRAM




The NOAA Chesapeake Bay B-WET Program provides hands-on watershed education to students and teachers to foster stewardship of the Chesapeake Bay. NOAA recognizes that environmentally literate citizens who have the skills and knowledge to make well informed environmental choices are key to sustaining the Nation's ocean and coastal environments. To meet this challenge, the Chesapeake Bay B-WET Program was established in 2002.

### Priorities


Using the environment to help advance student learning and problem solving abilities has been shown to increase academic performance, enthusiasm for learning, and environmental stewardship. Chesapeake B-WET supports the commitment of the Chesapeake Bay Program—a partnership for watershed restoration—to provide every student in the watershed with a meaningful bay or stream outdoor experience before graduation from high school. To accomplish this, B-WET recognizes two main priorities:

### Meaningful Watershed Educational Experiences



Using the outdoors - a bay, stream, or the surrounding landscape - as a “hands-on” laboratory where students can see, touch, and learn about their local watershed strengthens student connections to the natural world. The meaningful watershed educational experience supports bringing the outdoors into the classroom through a strong complement of field and classroom experiences. This provides an opportunity to teach science, math, reading, social studies, and even art in an interesting and thought-provoking manner.

### Professional Development



Systematic, long-term professional development reinforces an educator's ability to teach, inspire, and lead young people toward thoughtful stewardship. By providing teachers the knowledge and confidence to weave together classroom and field activities to meet existing learning standards, student engagement and achievement are increased.

### Funding

Annually, Chesapeake B-WET receives approximately \$3.5 million and reaches an estimated 14,500 students and 3,300 teachers. Applicants may apply for up to \$200,000 per year for up to 3 successive years for a single project

### Eligibility

Eligible applicants are K-through-12 public and independent schools and school systems, institutions of higher education, community-based and nonprofit organizations, state or local government agencies, interstate agencies, and Indian tribal governments in the Chesapeake Bay watershed.

To learn more about the Chesapeake B-WET Program contact Shannon Sprague, [Shannon.sprague@noaa.gov](mailto:Shannon.sprague@noaa.gov), or visit our website at: <http://noaa.chesapeakebay.net/formaleducation.aspx>

